

SENATE REDISTRICTING HEARING

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

CARBONDALE, IL

APRIL 21, 2011

TESTIMONY BY RICHARD D. GRIGSBY

MY NAME IS RICHARD D GRIGSBY AND I HAVE LIVED IN PULASKI COUNTY ALL OF MY LIFE WITH EXCEPTION OF COLLEGE AND THE MILITARY. I CURRENTLY AM AND HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE ALEXANDER/PULASKI COUNTIES NAACP FOR TEN YEARS.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT REMOVING ALEXANDER COUNTY FROM THE 59TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT AND FROM THE 118TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT. ALEXANDER AND PULASKI COUNTIES ARE THE TWO FARTHEST SOUTH COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS AND REALLY GO TOGETHER. MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE TWO COUNTIES ARE CONNECTED. THEY HAVE SIMILAR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND HEALTH PROBLEMS. THEY JUST SIMPLY GO TOGETHER.

WE HAVE THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION SERVICE WHICH IS PULASKI ALEXANDER EXTENSION SERVICE, THE AGRICULTURAL OFFICE LOCATED IN ALEXANDER SERVICES ALEXANDER AND PULASKI COUNTIES, WE HAD A DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SOME YEARS AGO AND IT WAS CALLED PADCG, PULASKI/ALEXANDER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. THE LOCAL NAACP IS ALEXANDER/PULASKI COUNTIES NAACP. WE HAVE OTHER AGENCIES THAT SERVE THE TWO COUNTIES, SUCH AS, CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, DRIVERS LICENSE FACILITY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC AND SOCIAL SERVICES. THE EMPOWERMENT ZONE IS ALEXANDER, PULASKI AND JOHNSON COUNTIES.

WE JUST FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE DISRUPTION, POLITICAL COMPLICATIONS, CONFUSION AND UNFORSEEN PROBLEMS IF ALEXANDER COUNTY WAS REMOVED.

**WE ERGE YOU TO STROGLY CONSIDER LEAVING ALEXANDER COUNTY IN THE
118TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT.**

THANK YOU.